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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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ARGENTINA AGAIN INCREASES PRODUCER GRAIN PRICES

The Argentine Government has increased guaranteed producer prices over the April 1958 original levels for the second time in the case of 1958-59-crop wheat, and for the third time in the case of 1958-59 rye, corn, oats, barley and grain sorghums.

All the prices are for sacked grain, f.o.b., Buenos Aires. The new price for both of the basic grades of wheat, semihard Grade No. 2 and Candeal or Tanganrock (Durum) Grade No. 2, weighing 78 kilograms per hectoliter (60.6 pounds per bushel), is 200 pesos per quintal (\$3.02 per bushel). This represents increases of 53 percent for semihard and 42 percent for Candeal or Tanganrock over the April 1958 prices.

The prices of oats were raised a total of about 85 percent. The 2 basic grades of oats are Yellow Grade No. 2, weighing 47 kg. per hectoliter (36.5 pounds per bushel), and White Grade No. 2, weighing 49 kg. per hectoliter (38 pounds per bushel). Prices on the 2 base grades of barley, Malting Grade No. 2 and Forage Grade No. 2, have since April been practically doubled. These weigh 65 kg. and 59 kg. per hectoliter (50.5 and 45.8 pounds per bushel), respectively.

The price of rye Grade No. 2 (weight, 73 kg. per hectoliter or 56.7 pounds per bushel) has also been doubled. The price of corn (yellow or red, hard or flint and dented, sound and dry) has been increased a total of \$1.48 per bushel to \$3.10, and millet and grain sorghums a total of 56 cents per bushel to \$1.34.

The Argentine Secretary of Agriculture announced that the price increases will enable the producers to "safeguard the results of their work." An auxiliary, though not officially stated, purpose is to channel more grains into the export market and hold down their domestic use.

The farmers are required to sell their entire commercial production of wheat to the National Grain Board. The Board determines the quantities to be exported and sells them to private exporters on a bid basis. The Board fixes the price at which it sells wheat destined for domestic consumption.

The farmers sell other grains to private traders who pay the specified minimum or higher prices. However, the Grain Board will buy from the farmers at the specified minimum prices such quantities of these grains which they have for sale but cannot sell to private traders.

Private buyers of grains other than wheat resell them for export or for domestic consumption at regular market prices. The Grain Board also sells such grains destined for domestic consumption at regular market prices, but sells them to private exporters on a bid basis. The Government itself exports no grain.

GRAINS: Argentina, guaranteed minimum prices, 1957-58 and 1958-59

Kind and basic grade of grain	1957-58	1958-59 prices			
		Fixed in:	Fixed in:	Fixed in:	Fixed in:
		April 1958	June 1958	November 1958	January 1959
	Dollars per bu.	Dollars per bu.	Dollars per bu.	Dollars per bu.	Dollars per bu.
Wheat:					
Semihard, Grade No. 2.....	1.51	1.97	1.97	2.27	3.02
Candeal or Tanganrock, Grade No. 2	1.66	2.12	2.12	2.27	3.02
Oats:					
Yellow, Grade No. 2 .....	.48	.48	.56	.65	.89
White, Grade No. 2 .....	.50	.50	.58	.66	.93
Barley:					
Malting, Grade No. 2 .....	.73	.85	.97	1.33	1.69
Forage, Grade No. 2 .....	.67	.78	.90	1.22	1.57
Rye, Grade No. 2 .....	.85	.85	.99	1.27	1.69
Corn, yellow and/or red, hard or flint and dented, sound					
and dry.....	1.41	1.62	1.69	1.98	3.10
Millet and sorghums.....	--	.78	.92	.99	1.34

PARAGUAY TO IMPORT 70,000 TONS OF
WHEAT FROM ARGENTINA

At a recent meeting in Buenos Aires of the Mixed Commission established by the Paraguayan-Argentine trade and payments agreement of October 9, 1956, Paraguay agreed to import 70,000 metric tons (2,572,000 bushels) of Argentine wheat during the year December 1, 1958 through November 1959.

The price will be U.S. \$61.40 per ton (\$1.67 per bushel), in bulk, f.o.b. Argentine ports from, and including, Santa Fe to the south.

The trade and payments agreement itself provides for Paraguayan imports of 70,000 tons of wheat, flour and manufactured products from Argentina annually. At the recent meeting, the Mixed Commission also decided that the possibility of reciprocal preferential customs treatment should be studied immediately by the governments of the 2 countries. In addition, the Argentine representatives agreed to recommend to their government several steps to facilitate Paraguayan-Argentine border trade.

ARAB REPUBLIC INCREASES IMPORTS
OF RUSSIAN WHEAT

The United Arab Republic is continuing to import wheat from the Soviet Union. An agreement recently completed by the 2 countries provides for the importation by the Arab Republic of 200,000 tons (7,349,000 bushels) of Russian wheat during the first 3 months of 1959.

PERU SUSPENDS WHEAT IMPORT
CHARGES FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The Peruvian Government has extended to the end of 1959 the suspension of all duties and consular charges on imported wheat. The Peruvian duty on wheat has been 15.00 sol per metric ton (1.63 cents per bushel) plus an ad valorem tax of 9.7 percent of the c.i.f. value.

The duties and charges were originally suspended for a 90-day period on March 7, 1958. Later the suspension was continued throughout the balance of 1958. The suspension is designed, as in the past, to offset the effect which the decline in the value of the sol and various other factors have had in increasing domestic flour prices and the cost of living.

PHILIPPINE TOBACCO
CROP LOWER IN 1959

Early season estimates place the 1959 harvest of flue-cured (seed) tobacco in the Philippines at about 73 million pounds, farm-sales-weight, compared with 79.5 million in 1958,--a drop of about 8 percent. The area planted to flue-cured this season amounted to 122,000 acres, compared with 120,000 a year ago. Dry weather has limited growth in some areas. If normal rainfall occurs during the remainder of the growing season, the 1959 crop of flue-cured could easily equal last year's.

The 1959 crop of native-type, dark leaf is now estimated at 37.5 million pounds, from 83,000 acres. This compares with 40.6 million pounds grown on 89,000 acres last year. Decreased plantings of this type of tobacco are attributed to a declining foreign market and the continuing shift toward larger plantings of flue-cured seed varieties.

COLOMBIA'S TOBACCO CROP
UP FROM 1958

Preliminary estimates place Colombia's 1959 tobacco harvest at about 82 million pounds--up 9 percent from last year, but slightly under the record of 1957. Growing conditions for the 1959 crop are much improved over 1958, and the area planted to tobacco this season is about 6,000 acres larger than a year ago.

Some of the 1958 crop is still held by growers. Disease damage to the crop was substantial, particularly in the important Bolivar region. Insect damage was not significant last year. Colombian tobacco consists of dark and cigar varieties grown for both domestic consumption and export, principally to Western European countries.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1958

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in calendar 1958, at 482.3 million pounds (export weight), were 3.7 percent below those of 1957. The value of 1958 exports, at \$354.4 million, was only 1.3 percent below the record 1957 value.

Exports of flue-cured leaf in 1958 totaled 398.7 million pounds--down 4.5 percent from the 417.7 million exported in 1957. Burley exports at 28.8 million pounds, were 40.7 percent above the previous year. Exports of all other kinds of tobacco, except Black Fat, cigar wrapper and cigar filler, declined in 1958.

Average export prices per pound for the principal kinds were as follows, with 1957 prices shown in parentheses: Flue-cured, 73.9 cents (72.9); Burley, 79.8 cents (76.3); dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, 43.8 cents (48.6); Maryland, 65.7 cents (63.7).

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by type and export weight, December and January-December 1957 and 1958, with percent change.

Type	December		Percent change	January-December		Percent change
	1957	1958		1957	1958	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Flue-cured.....	37,088	43,048	+16.1	417,679	398,742	-4.5
Burley.....	1,234	1,998	+61.9	20,498	28,834	+40.7
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	1,044	1,015	-2.8	21,995	19,702	-10.4
Va. fire-cured 1/.....	256	313	+22.3	5,291	4,617	-12.7
Maryland.....	1,203	835	-30.6	13,534	11,853	-12.4
Green River.....	58	44	-24.1	1,639	1,154	-29.6
One Sucker.....	56	182	+225.0	2,621	884	-66.3
Black Fat, etc.	492	470	-4.5	4,476	4,945	+10.5
Cigar wrapper.....	380	168	-55.8	4,493	4,736	+5.4
Cigar binder.....	536	367	-31.5	3,863	1,984	-48.6
Cigar filler.....	--	113	--	99	571	+476.8
Other.....	371	336	-9.4	4,765	4,320	-9.3
Total.....	42,718	48,889	+14.4	500,953	482,342	-3.7
Declared value (million dollars).....	31.5	36.6	+16.2	359.1	354.4	-1.3

1/ Includes sun-cured.

Bureau of the Census.

U. S. exports of tobacco products in 1958 were valued at \$85.1 million--up 15.5 percent from 1957. Cigarette exports for 1958 amounted to 18.1 billion pieces, compared with 17 billion in 1957. Exports of smoking tobacco in bulk rose significantly, and there were lesser increases for cigars and cheroots and packaged smoking tobacco. Exports of chewing tobacco and snuff dropped.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U.S. exports, December and January-December
1957 and 1958, with percent change

Products and Value	December		Percent change	Jan.-Dec.		Percent change
	1957	1958		1957	1958	
Cigars and cheroots						
(1,000 pieces).....	1,135	874	-23.0	9,187	9,340	+1.7
Cigarettes						
(million pieces).....	1,720	1,297	-24.6	16,993	18,068	+6.3
Chewing and snuff						
(1,000 pounds).....	137	216	+57.7	1,462	1,292	-11.6
Smoking tobacco in pkgs.						
(1,000 pounds).....	33	40	+21.2	606	677	+11.7
Smoking tobacco in bulk						
(1,000 pounds).....	585	540	-7.7	4,448	6,934	+55.9
Total declared value						
(million dollars).....	7.9	6.4	-19.0	73.7	85.1	+15.5

Bureau of the Census.

IRELAND TOBACCO SALES
LOWER IN 1958

The decrease in use of cigarettes and tobacco in Ireland was greater in 1958 than in 1957, according to the Irish Review and Annual for 1958. Total sales, measured by quantity of leaf tobacco withdrawn from bond, was down nearly 10 percent.

Among the reasons given for the decline were the fact that 1958 was the first full year of increased prices, following the raising of the tobacco duty in the budget of May 1957, and manufacturers raised prices in February 1958 due to the rise in the tobacco duty and other costs.

SPAIN'S CITRUS EXPORTS LAG

Spain's citrus exports to January 25, 1959, were 9.1 million boxes, compared with 10.5 million boxes at that time last year. Smaller exports despite a much larger crop indicate Spanish growers continue to hold fruit, hoping for higher prices. This could result in substantial quantities of the Spanish orange crop not being harvested this season.

URUGUAYAN WOOL EXPORTS CONTINUE LARGE IN DECEMBER

Exports of Uruguayan wool continued large in December, increasing over the November level. Shipments included 16,234 bales of greasy wool, 3,800 bales of scoured wool, and 4,957 bales of tops. The Soviet Union was the principal destination of raw wool, and Communist China was the leading buyer of tops.

Shipments of raw wool during October-December totaled 44,908 bales (42.8 million pounds). Principal destinations were the U.S.S.R., the United States, and the United Kingdom. Exports of tops totaled 12,349 bales (8.2 million pounds), and were mainly to the Netherlands, Communist China, Switzerland, and Hungary.

WOOL: Uruguayan exports by type and country of destination,
October-December 1958

Country	Greasy	Scoured	Tops
	Bales 1/	Bales 1/	Bales 1/
Czechoslovakia.....	1,030	1,026	0
China, Mainland.....	0	0	1,549
Hungary.....	2,195	159	1,213
Italy.....	379	1,146	859
Netherlands.....	1,602	1,020	3,461
Poland.....	188	0	720
Switzerland.....	136	149	1,293
United Kingdom.....	6,978	1,169	25
United States.....	6,617	1,950	157
U.S.S.R.	11,041	0	0
Yugoslavia.....	1,412	189	771
Other.....	4,114	2,408	2,301
Total.....	35,692	9,216	12,349

1/ Average bale weights are estimated as follows: greasy--1,057 pounds; scoured--550 pounds; tops--660 pounds.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES FIRM IN JANUARY

Dominion wool prices were firm to slightly lower in January, compared with December levels. Crossbreds were firm, while merinos continued to decline.

Prices during the closing week improved slightly for all types.

WOOL: Clean cost per pound, c.i.f., United Kingdom, based on auction sales in the Dominions and London, by specified dates

Quality	January 1958	September 1958	October 1958	November 1958	December 1958	January 1959
	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.
70's.....	1.25	1.07	.98	.95	.92	.91
64's.....	1.14	.97	.90	.89	.86	.85
60's.....	1.10	.89	.83	.83	.81	.79
58's.....	1.04	.82	.79	.79	.78	.77
56's.....	.93	1/.79	.78	.77	.77	.77
50's.....	.78	1/.64	.64	.65	.65	.65
48's.....	.76	1/.62	.62	.63	.64	.64
46's.....	.74	1/.61	.60	.62	.63	.63

1/ London auction sales only.

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTION OF MEAT FOR EXPORT RISES SHARPLY

Export meat production in New Zealand rose to 204 million pounds during October-December 1958, 21 percent over the same period a year earlier. Greatest increase was in the production of mutton which rose 42 percent to over 20 million pounds. Lamb production, at 137 million pounds, was 8 percent over the same period a year ago. Production of boneless beef also rose sharply.

During the same period, U.S. imports of beef and veal from New Zealand totaled over 38 million pounds, while mutton and lamb imports were less than half a million pounds. Imports of meat from New Zealand during 1959 are expected to remain at a high level, but no sharp increases are foreseen.

COSTA RICA TO INCREASE MEAT EXPORTS TO U. S.

U.S. imports of beef and veal from Costa Rica are expected to increase sharply in 1959. They totaled about 2.8 million pounds in 1958.

Costa Rica has authorized a total of 40,200 head of cattle to be imported from Nicaragua during 1959. These cattle will be used to meet the growing needs of export slaughterers. The largest export slaughter company in Costa Rica (Compania Empacadora de Costa Rica), is presently killing about 140 head of cattle a day, and is equipped to slaughter up to 300 head a day. This company reports that it has been exporting from 1.1 to 3.1 million pounds of beef a month to the United States recently.

WEST GERMAN CATTLE HIDE IMPORTS
DECLINE; U. S. SHARE UP

West German imports of cattle hides in January-September 1958 were down 14 percent from the same period a year earlier. Imports from the United States, however, were up 8 percent. Shipments from Argentina and Uruguay were off sharply--40 and 64 percent, respectively. Argentine supplies have been reduced, following heavy slaughter in recent years.

CATTLE HIDES: West German imports, annual 1955-57,
January-September 1957 and 1958

Country of origin	Annual			January - September		
	1955	1956	1957	1957	1958	Percent change
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	Percent
Argentina.....	41,742	60,525	81,756	62,197	37,538	-40
United States....	62,160	44,366	79,026	52,405	56,385	8
France.....	14,397	14,268	8,049	5,979	5,000	-16
Uruguay.....	10,926	12,504	14,998	12,291	4,450	-64
Netherlands.....	8,894	9,244	10,719	7,754	9,419	21
New Zealand.....	3,787	8,411	11,988	7,704	9,614	25
Australia.....	5,006	8,344	11,631	8,551	7,019	-18
Denmark.....	6,949	7,559	5,021	3,737	5,367	44
Canada.....	7,615	4,883	11,109	8,389	9,115	9
Italy.....	7,062	4,745	4,666	3,734	745	-80
Switzerland.....	5,933	4,524	6,103	4,586	3,592	-22
Belgium.....	5,830	4,104	3,099	2,009	3,248	62
Paraguay.....	1,959	3,945	3,646	2,435	1,590	-35
Union of South Africa.....	1,469	3,653	1,393	1,285	843	-34
Rhodesia- Nyasaland.....	6,554	2,585	2,865	2,280	2,821	24
Other.....	11,753	12,126	12,331	9,339	9,782	5
Total.....	202,036	205,786	268,400	194,675	166,528	-14

Source: Der Aussenhandel der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SHIPMENTS
TO U. S. IN JANUARY

Two ships, the "Pioneer Glen" and the "Orsova", sailed from Australia in late January with 222 long tons (1 long ton equals 2,240 pounds) of frozen beef for the United States. Of this, 91 tons were consigned to San Francisco. The remainder had no listed destination.

STORMS DAMAGE CHILEAN CROPS

Wind storms with heavy rain have damaged crops in an area of South Central Chile extending from provinces of Cautin southward to Curico.

Wheat loss from lodging adds to earlier frost damage. The 1958-59 crop estimate has been revised downward to 37,015,550 bushels, which may mean a deficit ranging from 7,348,000 bushels to 9,552,400 bushels this year.

Some loss is also expected in sunflower, Chile's principal oilseed crop. Reports indicate that heavy winds have spread the "roya" disease southward into the lentil areas of Cautin Province. The appearance of "Oidium" (mold) is expected to affect the quality and yield of wine and table grapes. Late potato blight has also spread and is now affecting plantings in Cautin.

DOMINICAN 1959 SUGAR PRODUCTION AUTHORIZED

The President of the Dominican Republic by decree has authorized 1959 calendar year sugar production at 1,088,000 short tons. Actual 1958 calendar year production was more than 10 percent below the 999,000 short tons authorized, and a similar percentage shortfall below authorized production seems likely for 1959, according to early indications.

Monthly production estimates now available as published by the Comision de Defensa del Azucar y Fomento de la Cana indicate that the 1957-58 sugar output (November-October basis) was slightly larger than the estimate published by the Foreign Agricultural Service in Foreign Agriculture Circular FS 7-58 November 28, 1958. Also, if crop prospects continue as now indicated, the 1958-59 estimate published in the Circular may be revised upward.

BEET SUGAR REFINERY TO REDUCE
LEBANON'S DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS

Lebanon plans to achieve a considerable reduction in sugar import needs through its first beet refinery, which began operating December 20, 1958. This year's operation is limited to large scale trial runs, since quantity and quality of beets is limited and beet-storage bins and other facilities are not yet completed.

When this refinery, located in the Al Biqa Valley, reaches full operation, it is expected to process 550 short tons of beets daily, or some 65,000 tons in a season of 110 working days. The annual output of refined sugar is expected to be 10,000 metric tons (12,000 short tons, raw equivalent). This quantity of domestically produced sugar will enable Lebanon to cut substantially the imports of sugar which until now have been the sole source of supply and which have been from 40 to 48,000 short tons, raw equivalent.

Except for about 5,000 metric tons of refined sugar annually, Lebanon's imports have been raw cane sugar, which supplied that country's only other 2 operating refineries (at Beirut and Tripoli). An additional small refinery at Tripoli has been closed since mid-1957.

BRAZIL REDUCES DOMESTIC COFFEE PRICES

The Brazilian Coffee Institute is attempting to increase coffee consumption in Brazil by reducing the price to the domestic consumer almost by one-third. The campaign was to begin in Sao Paulo on January 16, but was delayed until February 1.

Coffee roasters had asked for the delay, since they had stocks of coffee on hand which they would have had to sell at a loss.

COLOMBIA ANNOUNCES COLONIZATION PLANS

The Director of the Colonization Department of Colombia's Agricultural Bank has announced that about 300,000 hectares (1 hectare equals 2.471 acres) in Ariari, south of Villavicencio, will be opened for colonization. The land is in the Intendencia del Meta on the eastern plains.

The Colombian Government plans to assist the colonists through providing credit in kind, establishing commissaries, and in other ways.

About 3,000 hectares are already being used agriculturally in this area, which has a population of 15,000 at present. The inhabitants are mostly farmers who grow yucca and plantain bananas. These settlements will be the starting point for the economic exploration of more than 100,000 hectares, the area to be divided initially.

In addition to the colonization program in Meta, some 12,000 hectares have already been divided into plots in the Department of Cundinamarca and will soon be turned over to farmers interested in settling there.

This area is in central Colombia, and the products will be used domestically. However, another area under consideration of colonization, in the Magdalena Valley, is flat, very productive, and near the coast. In recent years, the Magdalena Valley has been developing rapidly. Much of it has been cleared and is being used to produce cattle and cotton.

COLOMBIA EXPANDS AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

On January 22, 1959, Colombia's Central Bank relaxed control of bank reserves. This is expected to release approximately 90 million pesos, which may be used for agricultural loans. Until July 31, 1959, the excess funds created by the relaxation can be used by the commercial banks to reduce rediscounts at the Central Bank, but then they must be used for either agricultural loans or to purchase bonds of the Agricultural Bank. The Bank is an official government agency established to provide credit to farmers.

The relaxation is another attempt by the Colombian Government to provide much needed agricultural credit and reflects the emphasis now being given to promoting agricultural production. In recent years, there has been so much demand in Colombia for credit of all types that the commercial banks have made relatively few agricultural loans despite various decrees that have been passed to correct this situation.

MORE REFUGEES LEAVING NORTHEAST BRAZIL

The Hospedaria de Imigrantes of the Sao Paulo State Secretariat of Agriculture reports a sudden new movement of refugees abandoning Brazil's drought-stricken northeastern states where there is widespread hunger.

A daily average of 400 migrants from Pernambuco, Ceara, Bahia,, and Alagoa are going to the southern states looking for work on farms. Whole families travel 8 to 12 days on trains and in the "pau de arara," a truck with benches. The state agency gives them a 2-day rest-up, fresh clothes, food, and then sends them out with a packed lunch to farms.

The same source reports a 100-percent increase in the internal migration figures from 1957 to 1958. The hostelry received 43,975 immigrants, the majority from the northeast, during 1957 and 101,788 during 1958.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Increasing milk cow numbers and a further rise in the average milk production per cow resulted in an estimated milk output in the Netherlands in 1958 of 13.5 billion pounds. This was an increase of approximately 4 percent over 1957 and 15 percent over 1958. With fluid milk consumption 2 percent less than in 1957, more milk was available for manufacturing during 1958. Much of this was used for butter and cheese.

Butter production (202 million pounds) was 20 percent above 1957, but 6 percent below 1938. Cheese production (382 million pounds) was 7 percent higher than 1957 and 83 percent above 1938. Overall canned milk output totaled 629 million pounds, and was about 1 percent above that of a year earlier. Evaporated milk production at 312 million pounds was the highest in many years. The manufacture of total dried milk in 1958 at 182 million pounds was 21 percent above the 1957 level. Dried whole milk production decreased 23 percent, but nonfat dry milk production was much larger.

VENEZUELA SUBSIDIZES QUALITY MILK FOR PROCESSING

Venezuela has announced a subsidy payment plan which will apply to milk used to make dairy products. Previously, only fluid milk was graded with accompanying subsidies paid to producers of premium milk.

As a result of recommendations prepared by a government commission, the government announced its decision to expand the subsidy system in the latter part of last year. The highest premium paid producers will be equivalent to 21.1 cents per cwt. Second quality milk used in manufacture will carry a subsidy of 19.8 cents per cwt. and 13.2 cents per cwt. will be the premium offered for the lowest grade milk. Milk which does not meet minimum standards will not qualify for any payment.

The commission also recommended higher import duties on butter and cheese but the government deferred action on this pending further study.

IRANIAN RAISIN PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS CONTINUE TO RISE

Iran's 1958 raisin pack and 1958-59 raisin exports may be the largest on record, according to preliminary estimates. The 1958 pack is tentatively estimated at 71,000 short tons, and 1958-crop exports at 46,000 tons. Should the 1958-crop estimate materialize, it would be fully double the prewar (1935-39) level of production. Iranian production and exports have increased steadily in recent years. Exports have more than doubled within the past 10 years.

The postwar trend of Iranian production and exports, for crop seasons beginning August 23 follows:

	<u>Production</u>	<u>Exports</u>
	<u>Short tons</u>	
1948-52 (5 year) average.....	45,100	20,100
1953.....	54,000	34,300
1954.....	55,000	29,300
1955.....	66,000	43,000
1956.....	68,000	43,300
1957 preliminary.....	70,000	45,000
1958 preliminary.....	71,000	46,000

West Germany is by far the largest customer, taking about one-half of Iran's raisin exports. Iranian statistics do not differentiate between West and East Germany, but it is known that nearly all of these sales were to the former. The U.S.S.R. is the next most important market, though its takings are subject to considerable fluctuations. The Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom account for nearly all the rest of the exports.

RAISINS, IRAN: Exports by country of destination,
annual 1955-57

Country	Year beginning August 23		
	1955	1956	1957 <u>1/</u>
	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>	<u>Short tons</u>
Czechoslovakia.....	---	55	2,613
France.....	1,846	1,739	3,823
Germany.....	24,667	18,325	22,226
India.....	1,202	1,764	550
Iraq.....	833	1,040	664
Kuwait.....	604	606	140
Netherlands.....	5,637	2,807	2,292
United Kingdom.....	1,580	2,076	3,354
U.S.S.R.	5,854	13,912	8,561
Other.....	736	980	377
Total.....	42,959	43,304	44,600

1/ 11 months, August 23, 1957 to July 22, 1958

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS
LOWEST SINCE MAY 1953

Philippine copra exports of 37,345 long tons in January 1959 were the smallest volume shipped in a single month since May 1953 when 32,079 tons were exported. Coconut oil shipments in January were down one-fourth from those of January 1958. Combined exports of copra and coconut oil totaled 29,222 tons, oil basis, a decline of 40 percent from January 1958. January shipments of desiccated coconut, totaling 1,250 short tons, all went to the United States.

The Philippine copra export price in mid-February was about \$255.00 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast (mid-January - \$240.00 to \$242.50; mid-December - \$225.00 to \$235.00). Local buying prices were reported at 51 to 52 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$259.09 to \$264.17 per long ton) resecada Manila and 45 to 52 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$228.61 to \$264.17) in producing areas.

COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
January 1958 and 1959, annual 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	January 1958 <u>1/</u>	January 1959 <u>1/</u>	1957 <u>1/</u>	1958 <u>1/</u>
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	15,655	14,394	290,314	264,831
Atlantic Coast.....	(---)	(---)	(2/ 23,962)	(2/ ---)
Pacific Coast.....	(15,655)	(14,394)	(2/ 266,352)	(2/ 264,831)
Canada.....	1,800	---	10,117	1,800
Panama.....	---	---	---	2,662
Total.....	17,455	14,394	300,431	269,293
South America:				
Chile.....	---	---	---	200
Colombia.....	1,500	---	64,522	36,953
Venezuela.....	1,500	1,806	36,127	19,628
Total.....	3,000	1,806	100,649	56,781
Europe:				
Belgium.....	---	---	8,500	10,000
Denmark.....	2,300	500	31,625	19,800
France.....	---	---	2,500	12,810
Germany, West.....	8,465	3,330	58,884	54,465
Italy.....	1,000	---	20,337	13,860
Netherlands.....	28,993	14,315	353,405	208,628
Norway.....	500	500	20,851	10,000
Spain.....	---	500	---	100
Sweden.....	500	500	36,500	26,065
Optional discharge <u>3/</u>	4,250	---	32,000	46,602
Total.....	46,008	19,645	564,602	402,330
Asia:				
Israel.....	---	---	8,000	3,020
Japan.....	---	---	6,784	500
Lebanon.....	700	---	7,900	4,200
Syria.....	---	1,500	---	---
Total.....	700	1,500	22,684	7,720
Grand total.....	67,163	37,345	988,366	736,124

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Revised. 3/ West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, or Sweden.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
January 1958 and 1959, annual 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	January 1958 <u>1/</u>	January 1959 <u>1/</u>	1957 <u>1/</u>	1958 <u>1/</u>
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	7,605	5,695	81,085	84,484
Atlantic Coast.....	(7,605)	(4,696)	(78,257)	(80,239)
Pacific Coast.....	(---)	(999)	(1,652)	(4,245)
Gulf Coast.....	(---)	(---)	(1,176)	(---)
Cuba.....	---	---	1,395	350
Total.....	7,605	5,695	82,480	84,834
Europe:				
Germany, West.....	---	---	1,540	---
Netherlands.....	---	---	8,126	4,814
Optional discharge <u>2/</u>	---	---	850	---
Total.....	---	---	10,516	4,814
Grand total.....	7,605	5,695	92,996	89,648

1/ Preliminary. 2/ West Germany or Netherlands.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

U. S. CHICKEN EXPORTS UP SHARPLY IN 1958

U. S. exports of fresh or frozen chicken during 1958 totaled 37 million pounds, a gain of 30 percent over exports in 1957.

Switzerland continued to be the major market, (for U. S. chicken), importing 12 million pounds in 1958--almost twice that shipped in 1957. Other major outlets for U. S. poultry meat were Canada and West Germany, taking 7 and 5 million pounds respectively.

The United States exported a sizable quantity of turkey to West Germany in 1958. Total exports of turkeys were 5 million pounds, of which West Germany took 2 million.

U. S. shell egg exports for 1958 were 29 million dozen, down 9 percent from 1957. Exports to Venezuela, the principal export market for U. S. shell eggs, amounted to 16 million dozen--a decline of 27 percent from 1957.

POULTRY AND EGGS: U. S. exports, by type, 1957 and 1958

Commodity	Unit	1957	1958	1958 change from 1957
		Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Baby chicks.....	Head	15,915	14,479	-9
Chickens:				
Broilers and fryers...	Pounds	1/	23,735	---
Roasters and stewers..	Pounds	1/	13,304	---
Total.....	Pounds	28,472	37,039	+30
Other poultry & game:				
Turkeys.....	Pounds	1/	5,209	---
Other.....	Pounds	1/	6,226	---
Total.....	Pounds	11,162	11,435	+2
Canned chicken.....	Pounds	2,191	2,946	+34
Eggs in the shell:				
Hatching.....	Dozen	1/	6,501	---
Other.....	Dozen	1/	22,381	---
Total.....	Dozen	31,726	28,882	-9
Dried eggs.....	Pounds	1,365	714	-47
Frozen eggs.....	Pounds	604	455	-24

1/ Breakdown not available.

WEST GERMAN LARD IMPORTS, U. S. SHARE, DECLINE IN 1958

Imports of lard by West Germany during 1958 were 52.5 million pounds, 19 percent below the 64.5 million pounds imported in 1957. An increase in domestic production and wider use of competitive vegetable oils accounted for the decrease.

U. S. exports to West Germany in 1958 were 9.4 million pounds, down 55 percent from 1957. The U. S. share of this market declined substantially while European suppliers, such as Denmark, France, the Netherlands and Poland increased their share moderately. Higher U. S. lard prices in relation to European price resulted in the decline of U. S. share.

LARD: West German imports by source, 1957 and 1958

Year	Denmark	France	Netherlands	Poland	Sweden	United States	Other	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
1958...	5,950	6,171	18,816	7,035	3,014	9,354	2,194	52,533
1957...	4,817	4,586	20,849	6,310	4,837	20,714	2,432	64,544

Source: Federal Ministry for Food.

INSPECTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER INCREASES IN BRAZIL

Federally inspected cattle slaughter in Brazil during the January-September 1958 period increased 14.5 percent over the same period of 1957. Cow slaughter accounted for most of this increase as steer and veal slaughter increased only slightly.

In addition to the federally inspected slaughter (in which the slaughter of young animals and females under 5 years is limited), much slaughtering is done in non-federally inspected houses that have no limits on slaughtering younger and female animals. This slaughter may reach 90 percent of total kill.

BRITISH SHOW INTEREST IN RHODESIAN MEAT

The United Kingdom recently imported 200,000 pounds of manufacturing beef from Rhodesia. This was the first substantial shipment since prior to World War II.

In London, R. T. Foulds, a director of Stockbreeders Meat Company, Ltd., the firm which imported the meat, said the shipment was sold prior to arrival. He indicated an interest also in importing chilled and frozen beef from Southern Rhodesia. However, the present supply there is insufficient to permit large enough shipments for economical operation.

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS DOWN IN DECEMBER

U.S. grass and legume exports in December 1958, amounted to 4,912,000 pounds, an increase over November, but 2,722,000 pounds less than December of the previous crop year. The decrease in shipments of alfalfa seed accounts for the lower total exports for the month as well as for the first 6 months of the crop year.

Canada, West Germany, Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom received the largest shipments in December.

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: U.S. exports, December 1958, with comparisons

Kind of seed	December		July 1 to Dec. 31	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	1/	497	1/	1/
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	1/	297	1/	1/
Alfalfa, total.....	4,008	794	9,200	3,539
Alsike.....	108	153	207	317
Ladino.....	1/	246	1/	1/
Clovers, other.....	689	979	2,178	2,691
Bentgrass.....	1/	533	1/	1/
Fescue.....	528	522	1,697	2,851
Kentucky bluegrass.....	308	296	576	1,130
Orchardgrass.....	34	195	120	260
Redtop.....	56	43	315	242
Timothy.....	155	246	1,491	1,563
Grasses, other.....	1,748	905	6,506	5,216
Total.....	7,634	4,912	22,290	17,809

1/ Prior to January 1, 1958, certified and uncertified alfalfa combined; Ladino included in "other clovers" and bentgrass included in "other grasses".

FRANCE REPORTS SMALLER WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE

France's winter wheat acreage seeded up to January 1, 1959 was 6 percent less than at the beginning of 1958. Current area is reported at 10,162,000 acres, compared with 10,806,000 a year ago. It is also slightly below the 1953-57 average of 10,327,000 acres.

Though the acreage seeded up to January 1, 1959 is significantly less than a year earlier, seeding of spring wheat or alternative varieties may bring the total up to the high level of the past 2 seasons. Alternative wheats are those that can be utilized for either winter or spring seeding.

U. S. MEAT EXPORTS DROP SHARPLY

U.S. exports of meat and meat products dropped to 164 million pounds in 1958, 42 percent below 1957. A 4-percent reduction in U.S. meat production, with consequent higher prices, plus the cessation of Public Law 480 shipments during 1958 were the main factors.

The outlook for 1959 is for continued low total meat and meat product exports. Gains in pork and variety meat exports will probably be offset by lower exports of other classes of meat.

The sharpest drop was in beef exports which fell 72 percent from 89 million pounds in 1957 to 25 million pounds in 1958. The decline is exaggerated, however, by the unusually large 1957 and 1958 exports which were inflated by Public Law 480 shipments. During 1959, beef and veal exports are expected to remain low.

Pork exports dropped 30 percent from 78 million pounds in 1957 to 54 million pounds in 1958. High pork production in the United States, plus large overseas production placed the U.S. exporter in a disadvantageous competitive position during 1958. The expected sharp increase in U.S. pork production in 1959, plus a leveling off of European production, is expected to result in larger exports.

In response to growing domestic demand for pet foods, and the ever smaller U.S. supply of horse meat, exports of horse meat dropped sharply in 1958, continuing their postwar trend. The United States is now a net importer of horse meat.

Variety meats are the only U.S. exports which are now in a favorable position. Although exports dropped 24 percent, from 91 million pounds in 1957 to 70 million pounds in 1958, the reduction took place during the first half of the year. Exports during the second half of 1958 exceeded the same period in 1957. The outlook for variety meat exports during 1959 is for a return to 1956-57 levels.

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS: U.S. exports, product weight basis,
average 1951-55, annual 1955-58

Commodity	Average 1951-55	1955	1956	1957	1958 ^{1/}
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>lb.</u>	<u>lb.</u>	<u>lb.</u>	<u>lb.</u>	<u>lb.</u>
Beef and veal:					
Fresh or frozen.....	10,240	18,438	68,843	70,853	6,811
Canned.....	5,101	5,094	4,693	3,219	1,703
Pickled or cured.....	12,571	17,132	15,755	14,464	16,258
Total beef and veal.....	27,912	40,664	89,291	88,536	24,772
Pork:					
Fresh or frozen.....	9,324	6,657	7,904	5,766	7,303
Hams and shoulders, cured or cooked.....	12,067	14,438	17,755	18,301	19,132
Bacon ^{2/}	19,208	3,180	1,644	2,515	13,601
Other pork, pickled, salted, or otherwise cured.....	30,037	37,076	42,053	33,115	9,492
Hams and shoulders, canned..	1,439	1,200	1,052	3,357	921
Other pork, canned.....	3,740	3,772	5,162	14,946	3,799
Total pork.....	75,815	66,323	75,571	78,000	54,248
Lamb and mutton (except canned).....	629	426	583	1,313	743
Sausage, bologna, and and frankfurters:					
Except canned.....	1,843	1,887	2,326	3,375	2,168
Canned.....	4,565	5,492	4,623	6,525	2,009
Total sausage.....	6,408	7,379	6,949	9,900	4,177
Meat and meat products, n.e.c.	2,665	2,648	2,538	5,029	5,325
Baby food, canned.....	332	478	607	1,127	1,659
Total meat exports.....	113,758	117,918	175,539	183,905	90,924
Horse meat (all kinds).....	17,719	13,505	11,190	7,246	3,896
Variety meats (except canned):					
Beef and pork livers.....	3/	3/	3/	3/	35,858
Beef tongues.....	3/	3/	3/	3/	21,946
Other variety meats, n.e.c..	3/	3/	3/	3/	11,752
Total variety meats.....	30,450	69,536	99,427	91,179	69,556
Total meat and meat products..	161,927	200,959	286,156	282,330	164,376

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Includes Wiltshire and Cumberland sides. ^{3/} Not available.

Source: Official records of the Bureau of the Census.

EGYPT CONTINUES WHEAT SUPPORT PRICES AT SAME LEVELS

Egypt is continuing for the 1959 wheat crop (harvested in April and May) the same guaranteed minimum producer prices which have been paid since 1954. They are 4.00 L.E. per ardeb (\$1.68 per bushel) for Hindi and 3.80 L.E. per ardeb (\$1.60 per bushel) for Baladi wheat. These are varieties of soft wheat. For the 1954 crop the prices were 4.30 L.E. per ardeb (\$1.81 per bushel) and 4.10 L.E. per ardeb (\$1.73 per bushel) respectively.

Egyptian farmers may sell their wheat either to private traders at the regular market prices or to the government at the guaranteed minimum prices. The government is ready to buy at its prices any amount of wheat which the farmers may at any time offer. These, therefore, are floor or support prices. The Egyptian government considers them reasonable compared with the cost of imported wheat.

These are the support prices for the Egyptian standard grade for both varieties of wheat. They are subject to premiums and discounts according to variations from the standard. In selling wheat to the mills the government adds a margin of 0.25 L.E. per ardeb (11 cents per bushel), to cover such costs as storage and handling.

Egyptian law requires the farmers to devote no more than one-third of their land to cotton and no less than one-third to wheat. The purpose of Egypt's policy of government purchase of wheat from the farmers at guaranteed minimum prices is to make wheat production more profitable and thus encourage the farmers to comply with this law.

The Government has, however, not been very successful in enforcing the law. Despite the wheat price support system, cotton production is still considerably more profitable than wheat. Consequently, in 1957-58 cotton acreage was as high and the wheat acreage as low as they had been in many years. The government has decreed that for 1958-59, the area in cotton is to be reduced 10 percent.

U. S. LARD EXPORTS DECLINE IN 1958

U. S. lard exports during 1958 totaled 387 million pounds, 23 percent less than the 501 million pounds exported during 1957. However, the relative decline during the last half of 1958 was less than during the first 6 months of the year. The outlook for 1959 is for an increase of approximately 60 million pounds above 1958 levels.

Increased price competition from European producers, together with stronger competition from vegetable fats and oils resulted in a sharp drop in exports to Europe. Greater lard production in Canada and Brazil and smaller U.S. output in 1958, also contributed to the decrease. Shipments to Cuba, our most important single market, were off 9 percent due mainly to higher prices.

LARD, INCLUDING RENDERED PORK FAT: U.S. exports
by country of destination, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58

Continent and country	Average 1951-55	1956	1957 <u>1/</u>	1958 <u>1/</u>
North America:	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Canada.....	<u>pounds</u> 6,497	<u>pounds</u> 17,726	<u>pounds</u> 26,611	<u>pounds</u> 6,000
Mexico.....	31,823	14,786	11,782	14,565
Panama Canal Zone.....	967	941	373	114
Costa Rica.....	7,363	5,693	2,022	1,751
El Salvador.....	4,299	3,613	3,082	3,147
Guatemala.....	8,648	7,932	4,853	3,453
Panama.....	6,560	4,424	4,893	7,133
Cuba.....	157,427	163,078	178,791	162,994
Dominican Republic.....	2/352	19	22	36
Haiti.....	6,725	6,322	6,982	7,178
Netherlands Antilles.....	1,066	441	220	194
Other.....	1,518	2,210	2,360	374
Total.....	233,265	227,185	241,991	206,939
South America:				
Bolivia.....	3,755	7,159	4,681	696
Brazil.....	2,088	10,417	6,000	---
Colombia.....	3,359	1,007	936	---
Ecuador.....	5,494	4	4	---
Peru.....	12,521	6,673	2,770	475
Venezuela.....	3,640	604	991	402
Other.....	134	1,763	38	268
Total.....	30,991	27,627	15,420	1,841
Europe:				
Austria.....	23,579	26,807	7,514	1,100
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	1,005	711	348	41
France.....	1,104	---	---	140
Germany, West.....	55,978	70,210	17,779	10,928
Greece.....	2/14	24	10	2
Italy.....	593	162	2	3
Netherlands.....	33,114	4,303	9	---
Switzerland.....	1,725	386	73	---
United Kingdom.....	124,685	161,591	149,529	146,367
Yugoslavia.....	38,431	88,496	62,392	15,479
Other.....	4,825	478	318	826
Total.....	285,053	353,168	237,974	174,886
Africa.....	100	43	110	---
Asia.....	5,197	3,371	5,767	2,245
Oceania.....	30	---	---	---
Other.....	---	---	---	631
World total.....	554,616	611,394	501,262	386,542

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than a 5-year average.

U. S. WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORT ESTIMATE RAISED TO 450 MILLION BUSHEL

U. S. exports of wheat and wheat flour in 1958-59 are expected to reach 450 million bushels as compared to earlier estimates of 430 million. Exports at this level would be substantially above last year's total of 402 million bushels but well below the 549-million bushel record of 1956-57.

Increased programming under Title I, Public Law 480 is the principal factor in the greater exports expected this year. Larger quantities are being taken by India, Brazil, and Yugoslavia this season compared with last. Poland's imports, on the other hand, are down because of reduced import requirements.

The high level of gold and dollar holdings by a number of importing countries in contrast to a year ago is an encouraging factor for U. S. wheat and flour exports. Another positive element in the market is a demand for U.S. feed wheat, principally soft red winter, which may reach as much as 10 million bushels within the year. Both of these factors are applicable to northern Europe, especially the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Heavy imports by Japan in June 1958 have diminished its imports of U.S. wheat in the current fiscal year.

In the first 7 months of the 1958-59 marketing year, exports of wheat (including flour) to the principal importers in million of bushels, with last year's figures shown in parentheses, were as follows: India, 66 (56); Brazil, 17 (10); Japan, 19 (28); United Kingdom, 17 (13); West Germany, 12 (13); Poland, 10 (18); Yugoslavia, 8 (2); the Netherlands, 7 (4); Korea, 6 (4); Philippines 5 (5).

EGYPT TO IMPORT ITALIAN SOFT WHEAT

An agreement between Italy and Egypt provides for Egyptian importation of 130,000 metric tons (4,777,000 bushels) of Italian soft wheat, and for Italy to take steps to encourage importation of Egyptian cotton.

The agreement further provides for a detailed program for trade in basic commodities to be drawn up by the 2 countries in the near future. It contains a provision that any payments balance that may develop in Italy's favor will be invested in economic development in Egypt.

U. S. WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS UP 5 PERCENT

U. S. wheat and flour exports for July-December 1958 totaled 204 million bushels, 5 percent above the 194 million bushels shipped in the same period a year before.

There were major increases in exports to Brazil, India, Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom, while those to Japan and Poland were down sharply. Shipments to Europe were up 13 percent over July-December 1957.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: U.S. exports by country of destination,
July-December 1957 and July-December 1958

Destination	July-December 1957			July-December 1958		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:
Western Hemisphere:						
British West Indies :	1:	1,783:	1,784:	13:	1,486:	1,499
Central America	716:	1,551:	2,267:	740:	2,121:	2,861
Cuba	2,019:	2,224:	4,243:	2,396:	1,291:	3,687
Brazil	8,938:	1,007:	9,945:	16,270:	--	16,270
Chile	1,968:	73:	2,041:	--	19:	19
Colombia	2,509:	355:	2,864:	1,114:	110:	1,224
Peru	1,915:	178:	2,093:	2,807:	415:	3,222
Venezuela	312:	3,187:	3,499:	1,245:	1,652:	2,897
Others	628:	3,163:	3,791:	868:	1,669:	2,537
Total	19,006:	13,521:	32,527:	25,453:	8,763:	34,216
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg..:	1,326:	9:	1,335:	2,564:	12:	2,576
Denmark	1,098:	9:	1,107:	674:	--	674
Germany, West	11,409:	31:	11,440:	11,665:	9:	11,674
Netherlands	2,071:	1,907:	3,978:	4,327:	2,014:	6,341
Norway	--	424:	424:	1,162:	382:	1,544
Poland	16,924:	--	16,924:	9,131:	--	9,131
Sweden	765:	39:	804:	1,880:	14:	1,894
United Kingdom	10,143:	490:	10,633:	12,558:	2,137:	14,695
Yugoslavia	1,596:	24:	1,620:	7,277:	--	7,277
Others	3,238:	637:	3,875:	2,313:	775:	3,088
Total	48,570:	3,570:	52,140:	53,551:	5,343:	58,894
Asia:						
India	47,497:	17:	47,514:	53,200:	21:	53,221
Israel	4,636:	7:	4,643:	3,101:	4:	3,105
Japan	24,548:	1,081:	25,629:	13,570:	815:	14,385
Korea	3,383:	584:	3,967:	5,571:	449:	6,020
Lebanon	--	131:	131:	1,188:	1,182:	2,370
Pakistan	2,001:	2/	2,001:	3,272:	154:	3,426
Philippine Republic :	--	4,591:	4,591:	390:	5,903:	6,293
Taiwan (Formosa) ...:	2,691:	5:	2,696:	3,315:	--	3,315
Turkey	1,957:	--	1,957:	1,003:	--	1,003
Others	1,135:	2,156:	3,291:	208:	3,935:	4,143
Total	87,848:	8,572:	96,420:	84,818:	12,463:	97,281
Africa	1,364:	3,156:	4,520:	1,113:	2,998:	4,111
Ocenia	--	25:	25:	--	15:	15
Unspecified 3/	286:	7,950:	8,236:	480:	9,275:	9,755
World total	157,074:	36,794:	193,868:	165,415:	38,857:	204,272

1/ Wholly of U.S. wheat (in grain equivalent). 2/ Less than 500 bushels.

3/ Includes shipments for relief or charity which are not shown by destination.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

MALAYA MAY IMPORT
MORE RICE IN 1959

Net imports of rice into Malaya in 1959 may rise somewhat because of lower domestic production and increasing population. Generally improved economic conditions in the Federation, together with expected lower prices for imported rice should stimulate domestic consumption.

Even though Malaya increased rice planting about 35,000 acres, the 1958-59 crop is forecast at 5 to 10 percent below last year's record of 513,000 long tons of milled rice (1,825 million pounds rough). Dry weather has caused a drop in padi yields in northwest Malaya.

Rice planters estimate Kedah's crop will be reduced about 25 percent, or roughly 45,000 long tons of milled rice. Losses in Penang and Province Wellesly are estimated at 10 percent, probably from 3,000 to 5,000 tons.

Malaya's estimated rice area planted in the "main season" crop by December 31 was 915,000 acres. The total estimated to be planted in 1958-59 is 936,000 acres, compared with 901,000 in 1957-58.

With harvest under way in certain areas, rice stocks in the Federation are ample. However, in Singapore they are the lowest in recent years, probably due largely to expected lower prices for rice from Thailand and Burma.

Net imports into Malaya in the first 10 months of 1958, at 359,000 long tons, were slightly above the 356,000 tons imported in the same months of 1957. Total imports of 514,000 tons, were 67,000 tons more than in the January-October period of 1957. However, re-exports to Indonesia were 63,000 tons more. The probable extent of the entrepot trade of 1959 between Singapore and Indonesia is not now discernable.

Rice imports from Burma in the first 8 months of 1958 more than doubled, and a significant increase occurred in rice from Cambodia and Vietnam. On the other hand, imports from Thailand and Communist China declined materially. At present, Communist China is not offering rice to Malaya, and well informed trade sources indicate it is unlikely to offer an increased amount in 1959.

The Federation recently prohibited any bank to operate if more than half of its authorized, or paid up capital is owned by a foreign government or its agency. Thus, the Bank of China, which has financed the bulk of Communist China's foreign rice exports, will quit functioning in the Federation in April.

The Chinese retaliated by repudiating the earlier rice contracts with Malayan importers. According to trade circles, between 20,000 and 25,000 tons of the reported original contracts of 36,000 tons of Chinese rice had been delivered before the contracts were repudiated.

RICE: Malayan imports and exports, January-October, 1957 and 1958

Country of origin	Imports		Country of destination	Exports	
	Jan.-Oct.	Jan.-Oct.		Jan.-Oct.	Jan.-Oct.
	1957	1958		1957	1958
	Long tons	Long tons		Long tons	Long tons
Burma.....	44,458	109,796	British North		
Cambodia.....	6,088	45,914	Borneo 2/.....	2,223	2,653
Communist China..	25,453	14,065	Indonesia.....	80,500	144,004
Thailand.....	370,716	302,571	Other countries...	8,323	8,148
Vietnam.....	98	41,394			
Other countries..	0	145			
Total.....	446,813	513,885	Total.....	91,046	154,805
Net imports..	355,767	359,080		---	---

1/ One long ton equals 2,240 pounds. 2/ Includes Brunei and Sarawak.

Source: The Department of Statistics, Singapore.

ARGENTINE DECIDUOUS FRUIT CROP DOWN

The pear crop in Argentina is about 20 percent below 1957-58 production as a result of frost and wind damage, the Ministry of Agriculture reports in its first official estimate of 1958-59 deciduous crops. Peaches also are sharply below last year, although well above the short 1956-57 crop.

On the other hand, a bumper crop of apples is expected, up substantially from the relatively small production of 1957-58 and well above average.

Estimates of 1958-59 production compared with the previous year are:

Commodity	Unit	1957-58	1958-59
		- - thousands - -	
Apples.....	Box	12,998,000	18,716,000
Pears.....	Box	4,890,000	3,849,000
Peaches.....	Bushel	7,395,000	5,879,000

ARGENTINA EXPORTS MORE WHEAT AND CORN

Argentina exported 309,000 metric tons of wheat in December 1958, compared with 176,000 tons in November and 169,000 tons in December 1957. This represents the largest monthly shipment since November 1955 when 344,000 tons were exported.

July-December exports totaled 1,254,700 tons against 1,209,400 tons in the corresponding period a year earlier. Shipments to Brazil increased by 285,000 tons. Approximately 54 percent of total wheat exports moved to that country in the first half of 1958-59. Shipments to the United Kingdom also increased sharply. While exports increased to these and other countries, sizable reductions in exports occurred to Chile 177,000 tons and in excess of 50,000 tons to both Italy and West Germany.

Exports of corn in December 1958 amounted to 211,000 tons, an increase of 100,000 tons over those in December 1957. Shipments during the first half (July-December) of 1958-59 totaled 1.2 million tons the largest amount during a similar period of any fiscal year since 1954-55 when 1.6 million tons were shipped. The increase reflected larger shipments to the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Japan, and Italy.

Exports of the minor grains, barley, oats and rye during July-December were considerably below a year earlier.

(See table on opposite page.)

NETHERLANDS RICE IMPORTS RISE

Rice imports into the Netherlands in the first 11 months of 1958, at 62,938 metric tons, were 15 percent above those in the same period of 1957. Imports from Thailand - about one-half of the total - were mainly whole milled rice.

Other origins were Burma, Egypt, and Belgium-Luxembourg. Over 4,600 tons of milled whole rice were imported from Communist China. Rice classified as milled, whole, comprised over two-thirds of total imports. Of this, 27 percent was broken rice, and only 4 percent was semi-milled.

(See table on Page 30,)

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-December 1957 and July-December 1958

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-December 1957:						
Brazil	391,287:	—	—	2,712	—	393,999
Chile	177,090:	—	75:	—	—	177,165
Paraguay	28,300:	—	—	—	—	28,300
Peru	44,097:	—	4,000:	—	—	48,097
Austria	550:	2,000	1,910:	—	930	5,390
Belgium-Luxembourg :	49,398:	9,480	134,271:	12,211	13,446	218,806
Denmark	10,792:	2,400	2,200:	17,056	—	32,448
Finland	—	21,515	—	800	—	22,315
France	12,300:	—	4,085:	510	1,490	18,385
West Germany	200,395:	42,071	50,705:	47,402	143,494	484,067
Italy	57,014:	31,242	170,300:	49,700	34,693	342,949
Netherlands	41,388:	34,134	120,741:	37,157	26,072	259,492
Norway	—	3,675	—	—	—	3,675
Spain	4,800:	—	—	—	—	4,800
Sweden	300:	6,100	100:	500	—	7,000
Switzerland	13,000:	2,000	10,075:	24,713	1,621	51,409
United Kingdom	151,678:	899	2,283:	10,498	1,030	166,388
Yugoslavia	1,000:	—	—	2,990	6,395	10,385
Japan	—	—	5,707:	—	—	5,707
North Africa	9,385:	—	—	—	—	9,385
South Africa	16,660:	—	—	—	1,250	17,910
Total	1,209,434:	155,516	506,452:	206,249	230,421	2,308,072
July-December 1958:						
United States	—	—	4,532:	—	—	4,532
Brazil	675,882:	—	—	6,484	2,000	684,366
Paraguay	28,458:	—	—	—	—	28,458
Peru	61,699:	—	—	—	—	61,699
Austria	10,713:	—	7,745:	—	—	18,458
Belgium-Luxembourg :	21,338:	4,970	116,648:	6,092	1,000	150,048
Czechoslovakia	—	—	950:	1,500	—	2,450
Denmark	4,100:	2,250	5,675:	7,636	—	19,661
France	9,634:	—	—	—	—	9,634
West Germany	150,841:	7,723	80,300:	46,520	56,882	342,266
Italy	—	6,272	298,782:	7,825	492	313,371
Netherlands	52,516:	13,075	310,999:	30,078	7,817	414,485
Norway	4,050:	—	2,028:	—	—	6,078
Poland	—	—	3,960:	—	—	3,960
Rumania	—	7,771	6,200:	1,150	—	15,121
Sweden	800:	6,905	3,650:	1,690	—	13,045
Switzerland	—	500	10,816:	420	—	11,736
United Kingdom	226,500:	1,330	163,697:	12,300	—	403,827
Japan	—	—	136,471:	—	—	136,471
North Africa	—	—	1,605:	—	—	1,605
South Africa	8,168:	—	—	—	—	8,168
Total	1,254,699:	50,796	1,154,058:	121,695	68,191	2,649,439

(Continued from Page 28)

NETHERLANDS: Rice imports, by country of origin, and by classification, January-November 1958, with comparisons

Country of origin	January-November				
	1955	1956	1957	1957	1958
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Semi-milled:					
Belgium-Luxembourg	0:	164:	497 :	497 :	1/
Burma	0:	736:	1,468 :	1,468 :	1,494
Egypt	1,114:	0:	462 :	461 :	1/
Italy	4,245:	788:	243 :	243 :	1/
Surinam	106:	1,156:	1,047 :	846 :	1/
United States	0:	2,632:	742 :	742 :	1/
Other countries	2/ 3,500:	3/ 5,259:	496 :	496 :	4/ 1,112
Total	8,965:	10,735:	4,955 :	4,753 :	2,606
Milled, broken:					
Australia	1,512:	1,048:	567 :	417 :	1,240
Belgium-Luxembourg	3,149:	3,401:	4,306 :	4,109 :	4,496
Burma	15,435:	5,400:	6,538 :	4,965 :	5,383
Surinam	60:	1,183:	1,310 :	1,308 :	622
Thailand	41,088:	848:	2,742 :	2,542 :	3,959
United States	2,497:	4,612:	130 :	1/ :	256
Other countries	1,695:	1,929:	1,247 :	1,278 :	1,105
Total	65,436:	18,421:	16,840 :	14,619 :	17,061
Milled, whole:					
Belgium-Luxembourg	0:	292:	217 :	205 :	1,072
Burma	15,963:	2,986:	502 :	32 :	0
Egypt	272:	0:	2,564 :	1,079 :	6,639
Italy	560:	4,165:	2,252 :	2,065 :	1,689
Thailand	31,193:	34,536:	31,723 :	30,975 :	27,359
United States	0:	433:	1/ :	1/ :	805
Other countries	63:	2,305:	905 :	867 :	5/ 5,707
Total	48,051:	44,717:	38,163 :	35,223 :	43,271
All rice:					
Australia	1,512:	1,048:	567 :	417 :	1,240
Belgium-Luxembourg	3,149:	3,857:	5,020 :	4,811 :	5,568
Burma	31,398:	9,122:	8,508 :	6,465 :	6,877
Egypt	1,386:	0:	3,125 :	1,540 :	6,639
Italy	5,052:	4,953:	2,674 :	2,308 :	1,689
Surinam	166:	2,383:	2,535 :	2,332 :	622
Thailand	72,331:	35,384:	34,465 :	33,517 :	31,318
United States	2,497:	7,677:	872 :	742 :	1,061
Other countries	4,961:	9,449:	2,192 :	2,463 :	7,924
Total	122,452:	73,873:	59,958 :	54,595 :	62,938

1/ If any, included in "other countries". 2/ 2,005 tons from Iran.
 3/ 3,350 tons from Brazil. 4/ 1,041 tons from France. 5/ 4,619 tons from China.

Source: Maandstatistiek van de in-, uit-en doorvoer per goederensoort.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS DECLINE IN DECEMBER

U. S. rice exports in December 1958 of 556,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled rice declined from the 718,000 bags in November, and were the lowest in 7 months. Exports to Cuba, 63 percent of the total, were 29,000 bags more than in December 1957.

Rice exports from August through December 1958 of 5,294,000 cwt. were 117,000 cwt. more than in the same months of the year before. Shipments to Western Hemisphere countries accounted for over two-fifths of total exports, but were down slightly from the like period of 1957. Over one-third was exported to Asia, principally the Philippine Republic. Exports to Europe increased to 13 percent of the total, compared with only 1 percent in the same months of 1957.

(See table on Page 32.)

LOWER MINIMUM PRICES SET FOR COMMONWEALTH CANNED FRUIT

Australian and South African officials have made general price reductions ranging from 7 to 12 percent below 1958 minimum prices for Commonwealth canned deciduous fruit marketed in the United Kingdom during 1959. Slow movement of the 1958 Commonwealth export packs reportedly was responsible for the price cuts. Discounts for quantity purchases have been reduced from those in effect last year. The new discounts apply, however, to smaller orders than those required last year. The 1959 discounts are 2 percent for orders in excess of 50,000 cases and 1 percent for orders of from 25,000 to 49,999 cases.

News of the reduced prices closely follows an announcement by the Australian Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee of lower 1959 grower prices for canned fruit)see Foreign Crops and Markets of February 9, 1959).

(See table on Page 33.)

U. S. FISH OIL EXPORTS DOWN IN 1958

Exports of U.S. oils from fish and fish livers in 1958 totaled 47,021 short tons, a decline of almost one-fifth from the previous year. Exports to Europe accounted for only 85 percent of the total compared with 97 percent in 1957. Shipments to West Germany and the Netherlands--the 2 major importers of U.S. fish oil--declined almost one-third last year. Most fish oil imported into these 2 countries is used to make a low-priced margarine, and the reduction in imports probably stems from the more competitive prices of vegetable oils and whale oil last year. Exports to Canada were more than 5 times greater in 1958 than in 1957.

Fish oil production in 1958 (excluding fish liver oils) is preliminarily estimated at 74,200 tons, up slightly from the 72,510 tons produced in 1957.

(See table on Page 34.)

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries,
December 1958, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-December:		December	
	1956-57	1957-58	1957	1958 <u>2/</u>	1957	1958 <u>2/</u>
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	376:	293 :	188 :	170 :	80 :	18
British Honduras	33:	24 :	0 :	1 :	0 :	0
British West Indies	137:	103 :	25 :	11 :	18 :	3
Cuba	4,054:	4,246 :	1,992 :	1,950 :	321 :	350
Guatemala	29:	68 :	24 :	11 :	1 :	8
Haiti	58:	14 :	1 :	4 :	<u>3/</u> :	<u>3/</u>
Netherlands Antilles	42:	54 :	21 :	25 :	5 :	6
Nicaragua	3:	5 :	0 :	44 :	0 :	0
Bolivia	176:	44 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Peru	<u>3/</u> :	980 :	<u>3/</u> :	2 :	<u>3/</u> :	0
Venezuela	40:	2 :	2 :	2 :	0 :	<u>3/</u>
Other countries	71:	62 :	17 :	17 :	4 :	2
Total	5,019:	5,895 :	2,270 :	2,237 :	429 :	387
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	686:	76 :	44 :	98 :	0 :	21
West Germany	20:	30 :	0 :	280 :	0 :	9
Greece	13:	23 :	6 :	25 :	2 :	4
Netherlands	50:	14 :	3 :	75 :	0 :	20
Sweden	16:	12 :	7 :	22 :	1 :	4
Switzerland	58:	32 :	16 :	18 :	2 :	3
United Kingdom	0:	34 :	<u>3/</u> :	137 :	0 :	24
Other countries	27:	6 :	0 :	16 :	1 :	2
Total	870:	227 :	76 :	671 :	6 :	87
Asia:						
Ceylon	0:	331 :	0 :	550 :	0 :	0
India	4,376:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Indonesia	5,424:	753 :	0 :	89 :	0 :	0
Japan	109:	5 :	3 :	11 :	1 :	1
Korea, Republic of	2,746:	242 :	242 :	0 :	0 :	0
Pakistan	4,372:	3,453 :	1,295 :	0 :	0 :	0
Philippine Republic	20:	554 :	377 :	1,140 :	377 :	0
Saudi Arabia	98:	151 :	80 :	38 :	9 :	8
Other Arabian States	22:	107 :	103 :	72 :	6 :	16
Turkey	218:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Other countries	18:	28 :	2 :	25 :	0 :	21
Total	17,403:	5,624 :	2,102 :	1,925 :	393 :	46
Total Oceania	47:	52 :	25 :	24 :	5 :	2
French Somaliland	0:	6 :	0 :	46 :	0 :	5
Liberia	248:	270 :	152 :	133 :	28 :	18
Other Africa	19:	17 :	8 :	24 :	1 :	10
Destination not specified	13:	17 :	9 :	9 :	2 :	1
Total exports (Census)	23,619:	12,108 :	4,642 :	5,069 :	864 :	556
Ryukyu Islands <u>4/</u>	207:	145 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
Section 416 donations	2,036:	683 :	535 :	225 :	88 :	0
Ground rough rice for animal feed <u>5/</u>	288:	0 :	0 :	0 :	0 :	0
World total	26,150:	12,936 :	5,177 :	5,294 :	952 :	556

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 cwt. 4/ Programed by ICA and shipped by the Army. 5/ Sold by Commodity Credit Corporation.

Source: Bureau of the Census and Department of Agriculture.

FRUITS, CANNED: Australia and So. Africa, minimum prices,
selected varieties, grades, and sizes, c.i.f. United Kingdom
port, 1956-59

Can sizes and grades	1956	1957 ^{1/}	1958	1959
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
	<u>per doz.</u>	<u>per doz.</u>	<u>per doz.</u>	<u>per doz.</u>
Apricots (halves):				
24/2½'s Choice.....	3.85	3.71	3.64	3.29
24/2½'s Standard.....	3.57	3.43	3.43	3.08
24/2½'s Second.....	3.43	3.29	3.29	2.87
48/1's Choice.....	2.35	2.28	2.28	2.06
48/1's Standard.....	2.21	2.14	2.17	1.96
48/1's Second.....	2.14	2.07	2.10	1.86
Peaches (Yellow Cling):				
24/2½'s Choice.....	4.03	4.41	4.13	3.64
24/2½'s Standard.....	3.75	4.13	3.92	3.43
24/2½'s Second.....	3.61	3.99	3.78	3.22
48/1's Choice.....	2.45	2.66	2.56	2.28
48/1's Standard.....	2.31	2.52	2.45	2.17
48/1's Second.....	2.24	2.45	2.38	2.06
Pears (Bartlett):				
24/2½'s Choice.....	4.27	4.41	3.99	3.71
24/2½'s Standard.....	3.99	4.13	3.78	3.50
24/2½'s Second.....	3.85	3.99	3.64	3.29
48/1's Choice.....	2.56	2.66	2.48	2.31
48/1's Standard.....	2.42	2.52	2.38	2.20
48/1's Second.....	2.35	2.45	2.24	2.10
Fruit cocktail:				
24/2½'s Choice.....	4.62	4.97	--	4.20
24/2½'s Standard.....	4.34	4.69	4.41	3.99
24/2½'s Second.....	--	--	--	3.78
48/1's Choice.....	2.80	2.94	--	2.56
48/1's Standard.....	2.66	2.80	2.66	2.45
48/1's Second.....	--	--	--	2.34

^{1/} Australia only -- 1957 So. African prices slightly higher for canned
apricots and peaches.

FISH OIL (INCLUDING LIVER): U. S. exports by country of destination,
averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-58

Country of destination	Average		1955	1956	1957 1/	1958 1/
	1935-39	1950-54				
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:						
Canada.....	458	2,707	11,308	1,621	1,228	6,466
Cuba.....	155	113	84	112	129	76
Mexico.....	45	109	96	63	56	103
Other.....	71	26	3	37	9	---
Total.....	729	2,955	11,491	1,833	1,422	6,645
South America.....	96	84	56	62	42	12
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	8	215	1,098	759	661	2,344
Denmark.....	---	---	---	866	---	---
France.....	19	273	9	---	5	5
Germany, West..... 2/	126	12,913	10,503	32,491	26,296	17,118
Italy.....	15	71	106	60	178	110
Netherlands.....	15	18,260	39,642	25,023	14,978	10,920
Norway.....	10	1,444	6,758	6,251	5,272	5,794
Sweden.....	7	---	---	2,646	7,716	3,370
Switzerland.....	15	4,994	646	367	794	558
United Kingdom.....	77	335	881	920	854	---
Other.....	8	25	23	---	---	---
Total.....	300	38,530	59,666	69,383	56,754	40,219
Asia:						
Philippine Republic.....	66	585	---	10	7	---
Other.....	24	28	55	5	6	20
Total.....	90	613	55	15	13	20
Africa.....	19	25	68	24	305	2
Oceania.....	---	---	---	---	4	---
Grand total.....	1,234	42,207	71,336	71,317	58,540 3/	47,021

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Total Germany. 3/ Includes 123 tons whose destination is not indicated.

Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

EGYPT STILL EXPECTS LARGER COTTON CROP IN 1958-59

Egypt's 1958-59 cotton production, according to the third official estimate released February 10, 1959, is expected to total 2,030,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

Although this estimate is down slightly from each of the 2 previous 1958-59 estimates, it exceeds the 1,861,000 bales produced in 1957-58 by 9 percent and is the largest Egyptian crop since 1937-38 except for the 2,047,000 bales grown in 1952-53.

Most of the increase this year is in the extra long staple crop, principally Menoufi. Production of medium long staple Giza and long staple Ashmouni is expected to decline from last year.

COTTON: Egypt, production by staple length and variety, final official estimate, 1957-58, and third estimate, 1958-59

Staple length and principal varieties	: 1957-58	: 1958-59	: Percent change
	: 1,000	: 1,000	:
	: <u>bales</u> 1/	: <u>bales</u> 1/	:
Extra long staple, over 1-3/8":	:	:	:
Karnak and Menoufi.....	844	1,172	+39
Medium long staple, over 1-1/4":	:	:	:
Giza 30, 31, and 47.....	236	158	-33
Long staple, over 1-1/8":	:	:	:
Ashmouni.....	741	2/ 656	-11
Subtotal.....	1,821	1,986	+9
Scarto (unclassified cotton).....	40	44	+10
Total.....	1,861	2,030	+9

1/ Bales of 500 pounds gross.

2/ Includes about 24,000 bales reported as other mixed and low grades.

Source: Government of Egypt

INDIA EXTENDS SHIPMENT PERIOD FOR COTTON IMPORTS

The Government of India announced on January 28, 1959, that the period for licensing and shipment of 30,000 bales (400 pounds gross) of sterling area cotton would be extended until March 31, 1959. Authorization for imports of this cotton was announced on October 29, 1958, with shipment through January 1959.

NETHERLANDS COTTON IMPORTS INCREASE

Imports of cotton into the Netherlands during the first 4 months (August-November) of the current season were 90,000 bales (500 pounds gross), up 14 percent from imports of 79,000 bales a year earlier. The decline in the proportion of U. S. cotton imported continued during the period, reflecting price advantages of comparable foreign growths and qualities. Imports of 13,000 bales from the United States during August-November represented a decline of nearly 50 percent from the 24,000 bales imported in the same months last season. On the other hand, imports increased from most other principal suppliers.

Quantities imported from principal sources in August-November 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 27,000 bales (20,000); Nicaragua 14,000 (6,000); United States 13,000 (24,000); Peru 11,000 (8,000); Belgian Congo 6,000 (12,000); Nigeria 4,000 (0); and Paraguay 3,000 (115).

The Netherlands imported a total of 313,000 bales of cotton during the 1957-58 season (August-July), a decline of 18 percent from record high imports of 380,000 bales in 1956-57. Imports of United States cotton amounted to 97,000 bales, compared with 192,000 bales in 1956-57, while increased quantities were received from Mexico, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

Cotton consumption early in the current season was running around 8 percent below a year earlier, and indications are that consumption during the entire 1958-59 season may be 5 to 10 percent below the 325,000 bales used last year. Some reduction in the high level yarn and cloth stocks may occur in the next few months. The outlook points to some increase in domestic cotton consumption during the second half of the 1958-59 season.

Raw cotton stocks in the Netherlands at the beginning of the 1958-59 season were estimated at 103,000 bales, compared with 116,000 bales a year earlier.

U. S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS INCREASE IN NOVEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, were 12,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in November 1958. This was an increase of 9 percent from imports of 11,000 bales in October, although 8 percent below the 13,000 bales in November 1957. Imports during August-November 1958 totaled 58,000 bales, compared with 39,000 bales in the corresponding 1957 period.

Principal sources of linters imports during August-November 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 46,000 bales (27,000); El Salvador 4,000 (2,000); U.S.S.R. 4,000 (4,000); and Nicaragua 3,000 (1,000).

U.S. COTTON LINTERS
EXPORTS LOWER

U. S. exports of cotton linters, mostly chemical qualities, were 23,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1958, down 21 percent from November exports of 29,000 bales, and 26 percent below December 1957 exports of 31,000 bales. Exports during August-December 1958 amounted to 110,000 bales, compared with exports of 118,000 bales a year earlier.

Principal destinations of cotton linters exports from the U. S. during August-December 1958, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 47,000 bales (69,000); United Kingdom 19,000 (19,000); Canada 15,000 (12,000); Japan 13,000 (5,000); and France 10,000 (9,000).

U. S. COTTON IMPORTS AT
LOW LEVEL IN NOVEMBER

U. S. imports of cotton (for consumption) were equivalent to 472 bales of 500 pounds gross weight in November 1958, compared with 12,000 bales in October and 28,000 bales in November 1957. Most of the November imports consisted of short harsh cotton from Pakistan and India. This type of cotton has not been subject to quotas since January 28, 1958.

Cotton imports during the first 4 months (August-November) of the current season totaled 121,000 bales, up 46 percent from imports of 83,000 bales in the corresponding months a year earlier. Most of this year's increase was accounted for by larger imports from Egypt and Peru under the long staple global quota.

U. S. EXPORTS LESS
COTTON IN DECEMBER

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) in December 1958 were 309,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (298,000 running bales), down 6 percent from November exports of 327,000 bales, and well below exports of 634,000 bales in December 1957.

Exports during August-December 1958 totaled 1,260,000 bales (1,214,000 running bales), compared with 2,431,000 bales in the corresponding 1957 period. Destinations of the August-December exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Official Business

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